

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 4-9, 11, 13, 14 and 16-18 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 4 are amended. No new matter is added. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 CFR §1.116 because the amendments:

(a) place the application in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed herein; (b) do not raise any new issue requiring further search and/or consideration as the amendments are merely to correct informalities; (c) satisfy a requirement of form asserted in the previous Office Action; and (d) place the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. The amendments are necessary and were not earlier presented because they are made in response to arguments raised in the final rejection. Entry of the amendments is thus respectfully requested.

Applicants note with appreciation the allowance of claims 16 and 17.

The Office Action objects to claim 4 for informality. Claim 4 is amended to obviate the objection. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 2, 4-9, 11, 13, 14 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. The Office Action indicates claims 16 and 17 are allowed. Thus, Applicants assume that only claims 1, 2, 4-9, 11, 13, 14 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Claim 1 is amended to obviate the rejection. Claims 2, 4-9, 11, 13, 14 and 16-18 depend from claim 1. Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2, 5, 6 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,676,050 to Chang in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,758,392 to Bennett et al. (Bennett) and U.S. Patent No. 4,547,002 to Colgate, Jr. (Colgate). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, a data destroy process unit that is provided along the transport path and that destroys electronic data stored in the electronic data storage device as

the paper passes thereby along the transport path, and a shredding process unit that is provided along the same transport path. As shown in Fig. 2 of the application, for example, the data destroy processing unit (discharge unit 20) and the shredding process unit (shredding cutters 21-1, 22-2) are provided along the same transport path through which the paper 40 is transported.

The Office Action alleges that a compact disc inlet 12 of Chang corresponds to the recited transport path, that a paper shredder 1 of Chang corresponds to the recited data destroy process unit, and that the rolling blade wheels 20 and 30 correspond to the shredding process unit. However, the paper shredder 1 of Chang is a main unit that includes the compact disc inlet 12 therein. See Fig. 4 of Chang. Therefore, according to Chang, the paper shredder 1 cannot be provided along the compact disc inlet 12. Moreover, the paper shredder 1 and the rolling blade wheels 20, 30 of Chang are not provided along the same transport path. Thus, even if the compact disc inlet 12 and the paper shredder 1 of Chang did correspond to the transport path and data destroy process unit of claim 1, respectively, Chang still would not have taught or suggested a shredding unit provided along the same transport path as recited in claim 1.

Neither Bennett nor Colgate overcomes Chang's deficiency. Therefore, claim 1 is patentable over the applied references.

Claims 2, 5, 6 and 11 are allowable at least for their dependence on claim 1, as well as for the additional features they recite. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 4, 7-9 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Chang in view of Bennett and Colgate as applied above, further in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,931,770 to Abramson and U.S. Patent No. 4,879,724 to Matsumoto et al. (Matsumoto). The Office Action also rejects claims 13 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Chang in view of Bennett

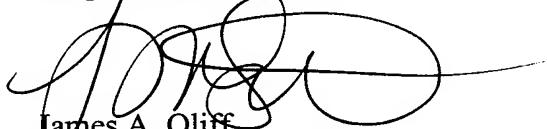
and Colgate, further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,038,012 to Bley. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Abramson, Matsumoto and Bley fail to remedy the deficiencies of Chang, Bennett and Colgate as discussed above. Therefore, the applied references do not teach or suggest the features recited in claim 1. Therefore, claims 4, 7-9, 13, 14 and 18 are patentable over the applied references at least for their dependence on claim 1, as well as for the additional features they recite. As such, withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the application are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment:

Petition for Extension of Time

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